



PRESS RELEASE

Francis Charhon awarded EFC Philanthropy Compass Prize

Cascais, 28 May 2011 – At the European Foundation Centre's (EFC) 22nd Annual General Assembly (AGA) and Conference, Francis Charhon received the EFC Philanthropy Compass Prize. The Prize honours individuals who have had a major impact on the course of European philanthropy. Mr Charhon, who is a medical doctor, was one of the three founders of Doctors Without Borders, and became its president in 1980. In 1992, he joined Fondation de France as President, and since then has held many other leadership roles in the philanthropic world.

In his introduction, Luc Tayart de Borms of the King Baudouin Foundation emphasised Mr Charhon's critical contribution to the EFC as a Management Committee member since 1992 and as EFC Chair from 1995 to 1997. His dedication to the Centre's representation work at EU level, notably the efforts around the European Foundation Statute, has been invaluable. Speaking directly to Mr Charhon, Mr Tayart de Borms said, "You are one of those who have made the EFC what it is today."

In accepting the prize, Mr Charhon stressed three key focus areas for foundations going forward: Reinforcing the role of the EFC and the national-level associations of donors and foundations; continuing the work on the European Foundation Statute; and being open, clear and transparent about the work they as foundations do and how they do it. He thanked the colleagues and partners he has worked with over the years, "If I've done what I've done, it's because I was not alone."

The Prize ceremony took place at the closing plenary of the conference, entitled "Resources and Sustainability – The Oceans", which brought together more than 600 foundation practitioners, and NGO and political representatives to explore opportunities and challenges facing foundations as they both build and employ their resources to make sustainable and positive change in the world.

Kathleen Cravero-Kristoffersson of the Oak Foundation gave the keynote address at the plenary. She spoke about partnerships between foundations and multilateral organisations, a topic for which she is well-placed considering her decades of experience at multilateral organisations, including the United Nations, and her current post as President of the Oak Foundation. A key message to delegates was the importance of partners understanding the competences and limitations of each other, and then exploiting this understanding for maximum benefit of the joint effort. "Too often we waste time criticising each other's approaches," rather than building on each other's strengths, she said.

She outlined the advantages of working with foundations. "Foundations have precious strategic advantages that when used wisely are worth much more than money," she said. Their speed and flexibility were also assets in these types of partnerships. "A foundation grant of 100,000 euros tomorrow is worth a million-euro grant from a multilateral in 2 years," she said.

The closing plenary also saw the handover of the EFC Chairmanship from Emílio Rui Vilar of Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian to Marco Parlangeli of Fondazione Monte dei Paschi di Siena, who will chair the Centre over the coming years.

Other plenary highlights included a preview of the next EFC AGA and Conference by John R. Healy of the Centre for Nonprofit Management, Trinity College Dublin. Mr Healy treated the delegates to a video of Belfast, where the conference will be held. The theme of the event, which will run from 6-8 June 2012, will be "Peace through social justice – A role for foundations?"

In addition, Alberto Lotti of Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di San Miniato accepted the Prize for the winning photo of the 2011 EFC Photo Competition.

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Conference dates: 26-28 May, 2011

Conference venue: Hotel Cascais Miragem, Cascais, Portugal

Conference schedule: <http://www.efc.be/AgaConference/Pages/ConferenceSchedule.aspx>

Programme: http://www.efc.be/AgaConference/Documents/2011_EFC_AGA_and_Conference_Final.pdf

For further information please visit: <http://www.efc.be/AgaConference/Pages/2011Cascais.aspx>

Press representatives interested in attending should email the European Foundation Centre at press@efc.be

Notes to Editors

- The European Foundation Centre (EFC), founded in 1989, is the leading membership association representing public-benefit foundations at European level. It is based in Brussels.
- The EFC currently has 235 members including community and independent foundations as well as corporate funders spread across more than 30 countries. A majority (90%) are based in Europe.
- EFC members have established a range of **Interest Groups, networks and fora** which facilitate cooperation and exchanges of good practice in various fields of activity including: children and youth; learning for well-being; diversity, migration and integration; human rights and disability; protecting the environment; HIV/AIDS; global health challenges; social investment; Central and Eastern Europe; communications; Roma rights; peace and security and global philanthropy leadership.
- The EFC hosts the secretariat of the **Donors and Foundations' Networks in Europe (DAFNE)**, which supports cooperation among national networks covering 22 European countries.
- The EFC coordinates the **European Forum on Philanthropy and Research Funding**, which was launched in 2007 with the support of the European Commission and other partners.

For more information about the EFC and its members please visit: www.efc.be